

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS
ONLINE

JUNE 2008

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DISTRICT COMMANDER***

Major Christian Sulit observes the dredging of Carolina Beach Inlet on the Dredge Vessel Fry with Operations Chief Bob Sattin.

the University of Kansas. He brings strong leadership skills to the Wilmington District including a strong concern for the welfare of “the troops.”

“It hasn’t been too difficult transitioning from a troop unit to the Corps of Engineers because

Major Christian Sulit comes to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas as the Operations Officer for the Division Special Troops Battalion. The Kansas native has a masters degree in engineering management from the University of Missouri at Rolla, and a mechanical engineering degree from

whether you’re in a troop unit or working with Civilians you still have people trying to accomplish a mission. As the deputy commander I’m transitioning from an advisory role to a more organizational leadership role to help the commander accomplish the missions in the district.”

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DISTRICT COMMANDER BIDS FAREWELL TO WILMINGTON DISTRICT

This is my last column before relinquishing command. I want to let you know, one more time, how proud I am of you.

I am proud of our “pirates” out on the water, of our rangers at the lakes, of our regulators out in the wetlands, of our construction reps on the job sites, of our engineers, scientists, planners, financial analysts, contracting officers, administration specialists, lawyers, emergency responders, and on and on...and of our leaders. I am proud of you all.

I am also proud of the way we pay attention to the American people that we serve...of how we listen to them and find ways of responding to their needs. I am proud of the way you never give up, of how you continue to



COL John Pulliam

find ways of getting the job done in spite of obstacles thrown into your path. I am proud of your sense of urgency, your undying efforts to speed up what can sometimes be very bureaucratic processes. I am extremely proud of the way you embrace and live the Army's values of selfless service... integrity...personal courage...duty and honor...loyalty...and respect.

Although I will miss you all, I am excited for the District. Colonel Jeff Ryscavage is a well-respected, talented, and capable leader. He is an experienced commander, having led the 249th Engineer “Prime Power” Battalion earlier this decade. He might talk in basketball analogies instead of football (he was a high school All-American and was recruited to play at West Point by Coach K), but his focus on teamwork, meeting commitments, and delivery of quality projects to our Nation will be the same. I know from

talking with them that Jeff and Alison are eager to join you.

Along with Colonel Ryscavage, the District is very fortunate to have a new Deputy Commander. Major Arnie Sulit (keep an eye out for his name on the Lieutenant Colonel promotion list to be published this summer!) and his bride, Angie, are just what the doctor ordered. Insightful, engaging, and personable, Arnie and Angie are a superb addition to the command group. If you have not yet met our new Deputy, stop by and say hello. He would appreciate that.

Wilmington District is an incredibly talented and astonishingly multi-faceted team of servants of the American people. As importantly, you are a wonderful bunch of folks. Jacque and I will miss you hugely, and remember you with great fondness. We will forever consider ourselves proud members of the Wilmington Family. ■

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

DEPUTY CON'T



Major Christian Sulit

A veteran of deployments to Iraq, MAJ Sulit said he is no stranger to multitasking.

"In Iraq, my unit had a multitude of distinct missions. I'm not a stranger to a large organization with a variety of things going on. Jobs and tasks have to be done and people have to be taken care of. My impressions here so far are that everyone wants to do a good job, a quality job, within the frameworks of the Army values and the Warrior

Ethos. It may be a different post, a different place, but things are very familiar here to me. I look forward to working here and being a member of the Wilmington District team."

MAJ Sulit is married with two small children. This is their fourth move in seven years of marriage, and he and his wife look forward to North Carolina hospitality and its beautiful beaches. ■

WILMINGTON DISTRICT CELEBRATES 233rd U.S. ARMY AND U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BIRTHDAYS

Neil Myers, one of the "targets," plays it up during the annual dunk booth event to help kick off Corps Day. For more images of Corps Day 2008 go to pages 6 and 7.



COLONEL JOHN PULLIAM REFLECTS ON THREE YEARS WITH DISTRICT

Colonel John Pulliam leaves the Wilmington District in July as the 50th District Engineer/District Commander. He reflected on things that have impressed him the most; the relationships that have developed over the years with stakeholders and the citizens of North Carolina and parts of southern Virginia, and the dedication and commitment by Wilmington District members to the Nation. As a retiring officer in the U.S. Army he encourages everyone to answer the Call to Duty for a potential deployment to help rebuild Iraq or Afghanistan.

"I think that the biggest thing that I'm proud of is the Wilmington



Within months of assuming command of the Wilmington District, COL Pulliam was on the road in Louisiana to talk with Corps employees who deployed for Hurricane Katrina recovery and to observe the water and ice mission.



COL Pulliam and Wilmington District staff chiefs discuss issues with Chris Hinton-Lee, Director of the South Atlantic Division Regional Business Center.

team's relationships that have been developed over the years with the folks of North Carolina, Virginia that we serve. That goes all the way from governors to people who own a 20-foot skiff and live on the AIWW or have a beach house on the coast or like to go bass fishing up at one of

our lakes. We have a relationship thanks in huge part to the people who are the point of our spear; the rangers out at the lakes, the regulators working in the wetlands interacting with the American people every day...the captains and the crews of our vessels who are running up and down from Maine to Florida. Also, the leaders, the project managers and the chiefs of our divisions and branches and other leaders in this organization who are

COL PULLIAM CON'T

out there communicating with and listening to the people we serve. As long as the Wilmington Districts keeps focused on working for the American people that we're serving I don't think that the Wilmington District will ever have the kinds of problems that other districts have today where people feel that there's a disconnection, but the people for whom we're really working we have a great relationship with them. So we have to keep up the good communication with them. That's the number one challenge; stay connected to the American people. Pay attention to them and listen to them, find ways to beat the sometimes bureaucratic, mind-numbingly-so processes and actually deliver work for the folks we're serving. We need creative people who have solutions for that. Credibility is a huge part of the key, and credibility comes with two-way communication."

DEPLOYMENT

"There's something inside the human soul that sits there and kicks people in a very quiet, but persistent way. And if that's kicking on the inside then you might as well go



COL Pulliam poses with members of the Operations Division and the Engineer Yard during a surprise awards ceremony.

ahead and do it. It won't stop bugging you until one of two things starts happening; you reach the end of your career or you go see what it's all about. Some folks don't deploy because there are so many demands at home. And that includes the demands of your community, your church, your job. There are 500,000 Soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Marines, Airmen and Sailors who can tell you that your organization can survive without you. A lot of them are married, have kids, go to church and are members of the communities. It's

kind of a hollow argument that you can't deploy, so you can find a way to deploy if you really want to. Fear, of course, is a factor. I think you just have to overcome that. The impression is that everyone's in imminent risk of death or serious injury. Those of us who have been over there know that it's not like that. There is certainly risk, but you don't get thrown into the inferno when you get there as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian." ■



*With 233 years of service to the Nation, the Wilmington District was one of dozens of other USACE Districts around the world that played hard on a day set aside to honor the birth of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. COL John Pulliam presented awards for Years of Service, and to the annual Employee of the Year. A special congratulations to this year's recipient and new Water Control Manager **Tony Young** (above right). We also remembered those currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan by cutting a piece of the birthday cake. **ESSAYONS!***



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CORPS DAY CON'T



WILMINGTON DISTRICT HONORS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN GULF REGION DIVISION DEPLOYEES



Members of the Wilmington District have consistently stepped up to the plate to answer the Call to Duty in the Global War on Terror. Spearheaded by Chief of Staff and U.S. Air Force retiree George Burch, a photo gallery now honors those who deployed for duty in either Iraq or Afghanistan or both. It's called the *Wilmington District Gallery of Military and Civilians Who Have Served in the Gulf Region Division*. For those from outside the District who'd like to see the gallery it's located in the hallway that leads to the District Commander's office.





Congratulations Retirees!

The Wilmington District says goodbye to two trusted and dedicated colleagues and friends. Terry Brown leaves the District as Water Control Manager. Terry received numerous congratulatory gifts such as a vessel flag presented by COL Pulliam, and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from John Morris the recently retired Director of the NC Division of Water Quality. Sharon leaves the District with more than 30 years of service. On hand to help celebrate her retirement were husband Joe and sons Bradley, left and Philip. We wish them well in their retirement.



WILMINGTON DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Nicolette (Nikki)

Schwartz is the
Wilmington
District's new
Chief of Logis-
tics. She comes



to SAW from HQ, USACE as a
Logistics Management Specialist
where she worked on Travel and
Transportation Policy. Nikki is a
graduate of the University of
Tennessee and majored in Inter-
national Business with a concen-
tration in Logistics & Transpor-
tation and Spanish. Her interests
and hobbies include going to the
beach, books and movies, travel-
ing and watching football. She
recently started surfing and
hopes to take golf lessons soon.

**Monica Jen-
kins** is a Geo-
technical Engi-
neer with the
Charleston Dis-
trict who is
lending her ex-
pertise to the
Wilmington District. She has a



Master's Degree in Civil Engi-
neering. Her husband is Clifton
and they have three girls Laken,
Jordan, Julia. Her interests and
activities include camping, hunt-
ing, fishing and soccer, soccer

Michael Menke

is a retired US
Army Master
Sergeant now
working as a
Maintenance
Control Special-
ist in the Main-
tenance Section. His children
are Tabitha, Kyle, and Ryan.
His interests are running, biking,
golfing, and relaxing on the
beach.



Tom Murphy

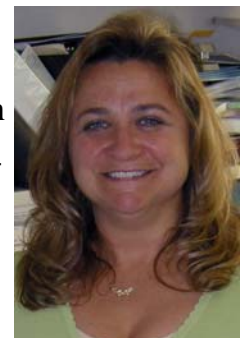
is a Charleston
District civil en-
gineer with a
BS in Civil En-
gineering from
the New Jersey
Institute of
Technology. He has 23 years of
civil/site work design experience



that he'll be doing for the Wil-
mington District. He lives in
suburban Mount Pleasant with
his girlfriend Missy and two
dogs, Mattie and Sam
(Samantha). Mattie is a Cane
Corso Mastiff and Sam is a mutt
that we found in a Target park-
ing lot on New Year's Day. He
enjoys playing golf and watching
the NY Yankees, NY Jets, and
NJ Devils.

Angela Zephier

is the new Op-
erations Division
Executive Secre-
tary. Angela
spent 11 years
on active duty in
the U.S. Air
Force and now spends one week-
end a month in Charlotte with
the NC Air National Guard.
While on active duty she was
stationed in Korea, Hawaii and
in various stateside assignments.
She was in Dhahran, Saudi Ara-
bia during the attack on the Kho-
bar Towers. She received a



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EMPLOYEES CON'T

bachelors degree from Wayland Baptist University. Her interests and activities include scuba diving, kayaking and traveling.

Juanita Souther

is a Seasonal Interpreter Ranger at W. Kerr Scott. She

is married to

Louis C Souther

and has two daughters, Racheal and Julia. She also has two step-daughters, Annie, Kristina and four grandchildren. She has two dogs. Mr. Sebastian is a Great Dane puppy, and Tank is a mix. She also has a cat named Mr. Socks. She loves any outdoor event and likes to bike ride but "I'm not used to the mountains as I'm originally from Michigan."

Ryan Phillips is an NC State civil engineering student working for the Construction Branch as a summer intern.

Originally from Wilmington, he



completed two years of engineering courses at UNCW. He enjoys surfing and fishing.

Richelle

Hardman is a student trainee in the Operations Division.

The daughter of

Lisa Hardman of Regulatory,

she will attend Cape fear community College and later transfer to UNCW to pursue a degree in business. She enjoys going to the movies and "the beach!"

Clair Atkins-

Davis is a volunteer who'll be working in the in the Regulatory Division . The

Charlotte native received a degree from UNCW in Environmental Studies and Spanish. She enjoys surfing and she also likes to play soccer.

**Vivienne Seed** is

also a volunteer in the Regulatory Division. She

has a degree

from UNCW in environmental

science and math. She also re-

ceived a GIS certificate while at UNCW. Born in South Africa

and schooled in Switzerland, she

calls New Jersey her home base. She enjoys traveling, the beach

and snowboarding.



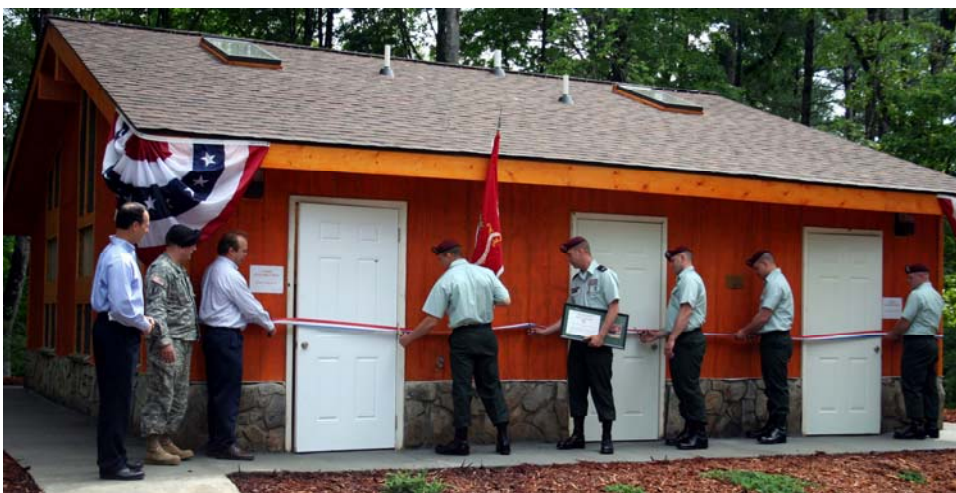
Members of the
Wilmington
District welcome
you to the U.S.
Army Corps of
Engineers!

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER TOPS ACTIVITIES AT W. KERR SCOTT

By Jory Shepherd

W. Kerr Scott is abuzz with many activities this year. The ever popular “Tom Dooley: A Wilkes County Legend” is in full swing at the Forest Edge Community Amphitheater for its eight season. “Moonshine and Thunder – The Junior Johnson Story” will again play at the amphitheater in October. Mountain biking reached its zenith over the Memorial Day weekend with the 24-Hour Burn Race and the addition of the first annual “King of the Lake” races along portions of the Overmountain Victory Trail. Fort Hamby Park is the location for the second annual Native American Pow Wow in September. In addition, the 27th Engineering Battalion from Fort Bragg constructed a much-needed bathhouse in Fort Hamby Campground--in only 3 weeks. For the fifth year in a row, W. Kerr Scott partnered with the Wilkes Family YMCA to provide free swimming lessons. This year, 100 kids benefited from this extremely popular program.

Two years ago, NASCAR Hall of Famers Junior Johnson and the late Benny Parsons partnered with W. Kerr Scott to provide water safety video clips. Appalachian State University is W. Kerr Scott’s newest water safety



Soldiers from the 27th Engineering Battalion of Fort Bragg ceremoniously cut the ribbon to dedicate the new bathhouse at W. Kerr Scott Lake. Standing by on the left are Neil Myers, COL John Pulliam and W. Kerr Scott Operations Manager Terry Ramsey.

partner. This year’s water safety trading cards will feature the three-time NCAA Division I champions Coach Jerry Moore, who also won an Emmy Award this year for his role in the production of *Under The Lights: Appalachian State Football - A Date With Destiny*, and the Mountaineer mascot “Yosef.”

Perhaps the most exciting development is the new 3,400 square foot Environmental Education Center (EEC) being developed in the basement of the Visitor Assistance Center. Scheduled for opening in 2009, The EEC has been, thus far, funded through donations and grants received by Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake. Visitors and staff members working above the construc-

tion site can hear the hammers and saws at work, which only furthers the anticipation of things to come. On May 16, 2008, the W. Kerr Scott team, Board Members of Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake, Chamber of Commerce officials, and various contributors and supporters gathered for an official groundbreaking ceremony. Colonel John Pulliam, Wilmington District Commander, spoke at the ceremony commenting on the importance of the new EEC and partnerships.

Currently, Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake has received more than \$100,000 in grants and donations for the project. This includes a \$25,000 grant from

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W. KERR SCOTT CON'T

Glaxo Smith Kline, \$20,000 grant from Lowes Hometown Community Education, and \$55,000 in large and small private donations. The group continues to fundraise while they await word on several pending grants that seeks to provide another \$250,000 needed to complete the exhibit area. With Phase I complete, a separate Environmental Center public entrance way has been established. Phase II is beginning and will completely transform the once lonely storage area into a bustling state-of-the-art learning area complete with fixed exhibits and classroom with Smart Board technology. Phase III is also in progress which includes exhibit planning and manufacture and the establishment of a native tree garden and trail adjacent to the EEC.

Recent work, including interior wall construction and sheetrock installation, is being provided by a diverse volunteer force. Volunteers include a retired Air Force Aeronautics Space Engineer, a Town of Wilkesboro Planning Director, and The New Century Scholars, a group of student's ages 12 to 18, volunteer helps them fulfill community service requirements needed to obtain an Associates Degree free through Wilkes Community College.

Ranger Jory Shepherd commented, "The staff at W. Kerr Scott have been

preparing for the opening of the Environmental Education Center for several years by obtaining certification through the North Carolina Environmental Education Program." Ranger Shepherd was the first Kerr Scott ranger to receive her Environmental Educator certification in 2006. She is an inspiration to other rangers who are attempting to complete this certification and as a result two other rangers lack only a few hours to complete the program. Both Wilkes County and Yadkin County have endorsed the EEC, setting the stage for teachers to visit with their students for the day. Equipped with the ECC's Academic Guide, teachers will select from hundreds of topics and learning modules for their class to study for the day.

"As I approach the possibility of

retirement," said Operations Manager Terry Ramsey, "I see this as one the most important things I could have ever been involved with in my career. Providing a lasting place for children and lake visitors to connect with the environment is crucial to solving our environmental challenges that lay ahead for the next generation"

Executive Director of Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake, Teresa Ford, continues to work with the Wilkes and Yadkin Counties School representatives to develop a K-12 state directed school curriculum for the EEC. "The Friends of the Lake members ask everyone to watch our progress as we see our dreams unfold to broaden the minds of all ages through our W. Kerr Scott Environmental Education Center" said Ms. Ford. ■



Soldier engineers build the foundation of the W. Kerr Scott bathhouse. The Fort Bragg-based Soldiers built the structure in only three weeks.

HERE'S YOUR ANNUAL REMINDER OF WHAT TO EXPECT FOR THE 2008 HURRICANE SEASON

On 9 April 2008, the forecasters at Colorado State University made the following predictions for this year's season, which begins 1 June and ends 30 November. Averages for the years 1950 thru 2000 are shown in parenthesis.

Named Storms = 15 (9.6)

Named Storm Days = 80 (49.1)

Hurricanes = 8 (5.9)

Hurricane Days = 40 (24.5)

Intense Hurricanes = 4 (2.3)

Intense Hurricane Days = 9 (5.0)

Additionally, the probabilities of at least one major storm (category 3, 4, or 5) making landfall on the following coastal areas follow. The average for the last century is shown in parenthesis.

Entire U.S. coastline – 60% (52%)

U.S. East Coast, Including Peninsula Florida – 45% (31%)

Gulf Coast from Florida Panhandle Westward to Brownsville, TX – 44% (30%)

Once again, we can anticipate an active season. The last two years of minimal hurricane activity on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts should not lull you into a false sense of security. The Atlantic basin activity is expected to be well above the long-term average. Bottom line...we need to be prepared!

The District Circular 500-1-3, Hurricane Preparedness, was distributed to all SAW employees earlier this year. It can be

found at :

sawintra.saw.usace.army.mil:8080/homeplate/SAW/EM/Shared%20Documents/2008%20hurricane%20preparedness%20500-1-3%20with%20cover.pdf

This Circular provides information for protective measures for the workplace, as well as your home. It includes updated information, websites, and phone numbers to help you prepare yourself and your family for extreme weather conditions. **Please take the time to review it and ensure that you are prepared in the event we become storm victims this year.** Know the dangers...plan to survive!

SAW's Commodities Planning and Response Team, Recovery Field Office team, and Preliminary Damage Assessment teams are made up of volunteers who ensure our response efforts are successful. Their dedication is greatly appreciated by the EM staff and those we serve. Through their continued support, the District's impressive record of hurricane response efforts is strengthened.

Who knows how accurate the predictions will be? This may turn out to be another uneventful season for SAW; but, we'll continue to plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Being prepared for storms is serious business; however, take a moment to have some fun and check your Hurricane I.Q. by taking the following trivia quiz:

1. When is the Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season?

- a. 1 June through 30 September
- b. 1 August through 30 November
- c. 1 June through 30 November
- d. None of the above

2. Since 1954, what is the northernmost area affected by a hurricane?

- a. Massachusetts
- b. Nova Scotia
- c. Lesser Antilles
- d. Virginia

3. In what year did the U.S. National Weather Service and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) begin naming storms?

- a. 1950
- b. 1953
- c. 1945
- d. 1962

4. What do the following storms have in common: Katrina, Mitch, Hattie, Edna?

- a. All made landfall on the Gulf coast.
- b. All made landfall on the Atlantic Coast
- c. All names have been retired.
- d. All of the above

5. In what year were men's names included in the list of storm names?

- a. 1971
- b. 1979
- c. 1982
- d. 1968

Answers: 1 (c); 2 (b); 3(a); 4(c); 5 (c)

Hope you have a great summer and safe Hurricane Season! ■

Your EM TEAM,

**Ron Stirrat, Diane Lastinger,
and Stephan Vithalani**

CORPS FAMILY NEWS

Wesley Langdon Storm, son of **Sherrie Storm** (J H Kerr) graduated cum laude from James Madison University May 3rd with a BS in Chemistry where he also was the recipient of the 2008 Degesch America Chemistry Award. Wesley has also been awarded a full scholarship to UNC-Chapel Hill for his PhD in Analytical Chemistry, where he was also awarded the Frances P. Veneble Fellowship based upon his scholastic record and his research promise. The scholarship includes full tuition, salary and health insurance for 5 years. On May 31st, Wesley married Tabitha Roberts, also a James Madison University graduate and daughter of John and Susan Roberts, RBS, Kerr's O&M

contractor,. They were married in a beautiful outdoor wedding. (See photo below.)

Shane Jones' wife, Dr. Mona Faye Black, right, (her professional name, but otherwise known as Mona Black Jones) sang in a choir at Carnegie Hall in New York City 14 June. The piece they sang was the world premiere of a mass written by the conductor himself, Dr. Timothy Michael Powell entitled "The Wedding Mass". Most of the choir was from Baytown, TX. Dr. Powell and his wife are graduates of University of South Carolina where Shane's wife got her Doctorate. Powell's wife contacted former choir members from USC to join them for the debut. Shane's



wife and one other were the only two to respond. Powell and others had been working on this debut for two years. Mona said she always thought she'd make her debut playing percussion (timpani or marimba), but getting a chance to go sing at Carnegie Hall was great, too.

Chuck Wilson's son, Charles Zachary Wilson, graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering from NC State's School of Engineering.



Pastor Bill

The Passing of Storms

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."



Bill Adams

(Romans 8:28)

On a late afternoon a few weeks ago, a cold front was passing through our area, bringing with it a large thunderstorm. As I heard it approach, I took my youngest daughter out on the front porch and we waited for its arrival. We could hear the thunder in the west, each clap a little louder as it slowly grew closer. The birds fell silent. Soon the winds picked-up, the treetops began to sing and sway, and the storm came upon us with all of its fury. Lightning flashes filled the sky and we tried to count the seconds until the thunder came. They were all very close. How powerful, frightening and wonderful it was. But soon it was gone, leaving as quickly as it had come. The swaying trees fell silent and the birds began to sing. It became a beautiful

and peaceful evening.

The next morning I walked through my yard looking at the flowers and breathing in the freshness of the rain-washed earth. Where was that storm now - somewhere to the east? No, it was all around me. Although the day was fair, that storm was in the daylilies and in the grass. It was in the resurrection fern, come back to life. The birds were drinking that storm from the birdbath, the nearby creek was full and the fish were swimming in it. Dead branches from trees now lay on the ground, waiting for insects and fungi to consume them. All around me were signs of the storm's passing, yet all around me were signs that it had nourished and renewed life.

God nurtures and cares for the things of His world through storms. He sometimes uses storms in our lives to nourish and shape us. When we get too wrapped-up in the demands of work, He will use a storm in a relationship to remind us what's actually important. When we wander from the paths He has chosen for us to walk, He will use

storms of discomfort to set us back on track. When we're no longer growing and bearing fruit, He will use storms to prune away our dead wood and make us productive again.

Do you have storms in your life? You are blessed because God is trying to renew and prune you. Do you wish to be more compassionate? His storms will let you feel the pain others are feeling so that you might better minister to them. Do you wish for fame? Expect His storms to teach you the importance of humility. Do you wish for wealth? He may use storms to teach you the transitory value of things.

When we pray and ask to be molded into the image of Christ, we need to expect that God might use storms to answer our prayers. When the storms come, they may be terrible to behold and painful to endure, but if we open our hearts to the lessons they bring, we will be blessed. God loves us enough to give us storms! ■

*Blessings to all,
Bill Adams*